



909 N. Washington Street • Suite 300 • Alexandria, Virginia 22314
1-800-333-TSCL • (703) 548-5568 • Fax (703) 684-3258
e-mail: mail@tscl.org • website: www.tscl.org

February 17, 2005

The Honorable Gil Gutknecht
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Gutknecht:

This letter is to thank and support you for introducing H.R. 328, the "Pharmaceutical Market Access Act of 2005."

We wholeheartedly endorse this bill. Why? Because we've heard from many of our 1.2 million members who say that they sometimes have to choose between getting their prescriptions filled or putting groceries in their cupboards. We feel it's shameful that in this prosperous and wonderful country in which we live there are seniors who are being financially crippled by the high cost of prescription medications.

An estimated 29% of American seniors don't fill all their prescriptions, because they can't afford to. Which is more dangerous, a senior taking a prescription drug purchased in Canada; one made in an FDA-approved facility, often the same facility that manufactures the same drug seniors purchase in the U.S., or a senior not taking the medication at all because he or she can't afford it? We feel the answer to this question is obvious...not taking a medication at all is, by far, the more dangerous solution.

Following is an excerpt from testimony that our organization provided in the 108th Congress. We believe the text is still relevant today:

One of our members, "Lillian F," told us "I don't get enough Social Security for my medication and had to quit taking a couple of them.... I have Parkinson's and I take medication for that and it is expensive.... Now my husband had a heart attack, and he has to take a lot of medications too, so I might have to quit taking more of my medicine." Unfortunately, since "Lillian F." wrote that e-mail to us in April of 2003, her husband has passed away and she has had to cut back further on her medicines.

It is on behalf of individuals such as "Lillian F" that we support more affordable prescription drugs and the reason that we enthusiastically endorse your bill, H.R. 328.

Sincerely,

George A. Smith
Chairman